BRIDGE MARCH 2021

TEACHERS' FILE

This Teachers' File (TF) contains activities based on the magazine and the CD. The TF, along with the recording scripts, is available for online users. Registration password: entry.

IRISH FOR A DAY

St Patrick's Day Mistakes

In the following text about St Patrick and St Patrick's Day, there is one factual mistake in each sentence. Find the mistakes and correct them.

St Patrick was born in Ireland in the fourth or fifth century. As a teenager, he was kidnapped by spies and made a slave. After his escape, he had a vision that he should convert English people to Christianity. While doing so, he used a maple leaf to teach them about the Holy Trinity. He's also said to have been attacked by bears when he was fasting and to have driven them from Ireland.

St Patrick's Day is celebrated on the supposed date of Patrick's birth. It used to be a serious religious occasion in Ireland until merry festivities and parades were brought over from Britain. The first St Patrick's Day Parade actually took place in London in the 18^{th} century.

The Roman Leprechaun?

CD Track 11

You're going to listen to an explanation of the possible origins of the leprechaun, a popular character in Irish folklore.

TASK 1

First read the beginning of the text and try to fill in the missing information.

You've certainly seen pictures of the most famous Irish fairies, the little leprechauns. They look like **1** __________________ , they dress in **2** __________________ (*colour*), their job is making **3** __________________ and you can find their hidden pots of **4** __________________ at the end of **5** __________________ .

TASK 2

Now listen to the whole text, check your answers and fill in the other missing words (1–2 words per gap).

Very surprisingly, leprechauns don't appear much in older folklore – their huge popularity today is a **6** __________________ thing. In fact, recent research says they might have been invented by **7** __________________ !

The first story of these little folk tells that Fergus mac Léti, King of Ulster, fell asleep on the **8** __________________ and woke to find himself being dragged into the **9** __________________ by three "lúchorpáin". They weren't shoemakers back then, but **10** __________________ fairies.

It seems, though, that the original "leprechauns" weren't fairies at all. In **11** __________________ Rome there was a kind of religious gang called the Luperci. They were **12** __________________ men who got drunk, got naked and ran around causing **13** __________________ .

St Augustine of Hippo said that the Luperci were like Greek werewolves, who were believed to change from men into wolves by swimming through a **14** __________________ . Two centuries later, Irish scholars read Augustine. They didn't understand his Latin properly, and thought he meant that the Luperci were an ancient magical race. Because they could **15** __________________ , they were supposed to have survived Noah's Flood* and found a safe home in **16** __________________ . And that's how drunk young Romans became Irish fairies.

* **Noah's Flood** – In the Bible, God decides that the world has become evil. He tells a good man, Noah, to build a huge boat called the ark for him, his family and two of each animal in the world. The world floods and every land creature not on the ark is killed.